

ILLUSTRATED SPORTING NEWS

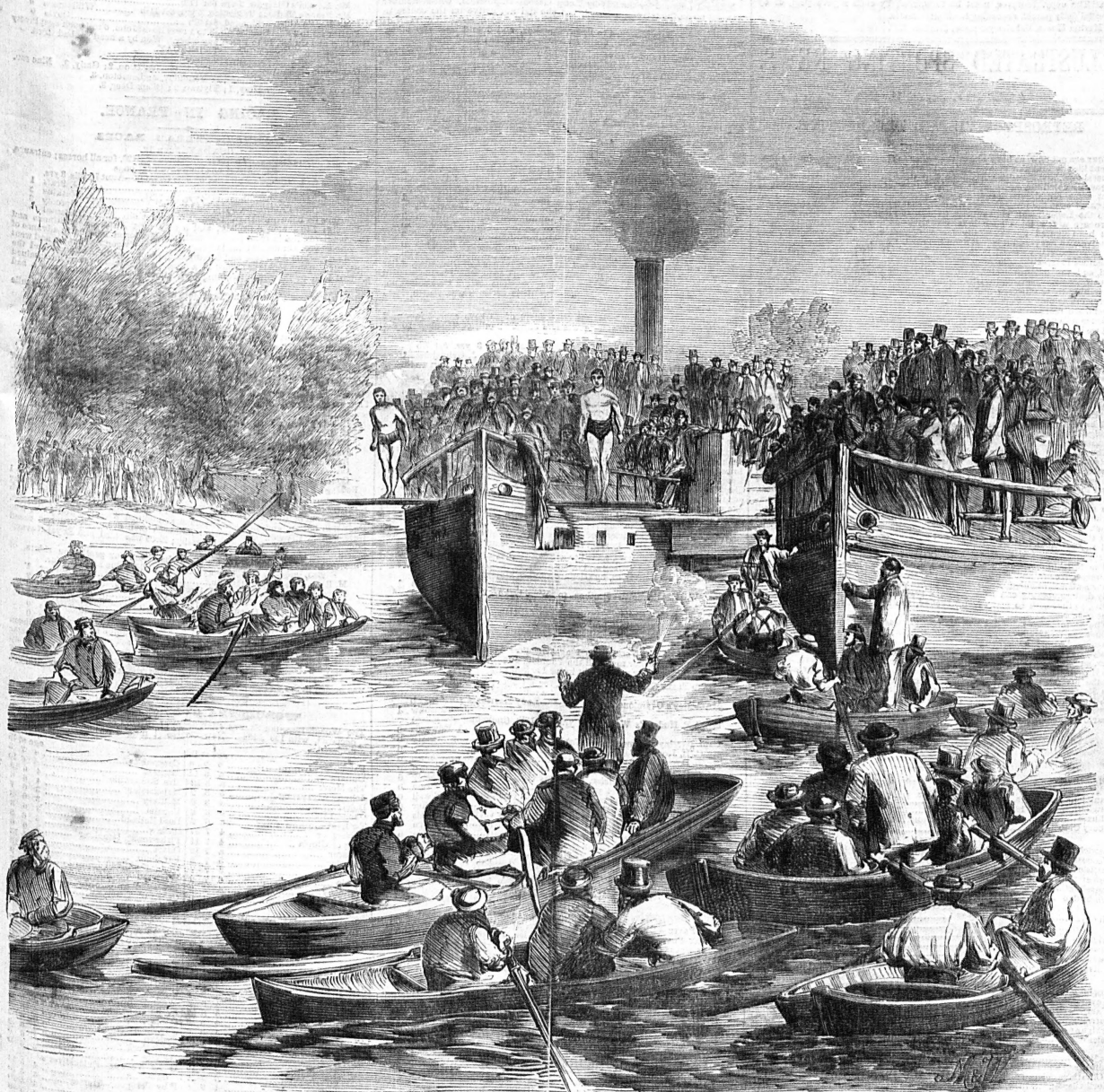


AND THEATRICAL AND MUSICAL REVIEW.

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THE GREAT MATCH FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP.

THE ACCLIMATISATION SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN.

We think that the members of this rapidly-advancing society will have every reason to be satisfied with the fourth annual report of the council, which was read at the meeting on Wednesday last, and which will be placed in their hands in printed form as soon as the special committee appointed to revise the laws, so as to meet the enlarged state of the society, have concluded their labours. As a record of work done, it manifests very considerable progress; and if there be some failures recorded, even they do not afford matter for dissatisfaction. Such of our readers as are acquainted with the course which we have conscientiously followed in advocating and explaining the objects which this society has in view, will be in mind that we have always pointed out that, throughout its career, success will be small in proportion to failure. This is obviously a necessary condition in the case of this society. If the objects were confined to getting together a menagerie, or constructing handsome gardens like those of the Horticultural Society, all that it would be necessary to do, would be to arrest the public attention by advertisements, pageants, and shows, get a large number of influential names to put forward as patrons, fellows, and members, and the thing would be done. The task, however, with the Acclimatisation Society has proposed to itself is of a less brilliant and infinitely more difficult character. It aims at the introduction of novelties, of such mammals, birds, fishes, insects, and vegetables, as are likely to be of use or ornament, and which have never before been cultivated successfully in this country. This is, indeed, a very daring and ambitious project. When we consider that, for many centuries, ingenious and thoughtful men have been carrying out independently the very operations which this society is now attempting in an organised form, and have reaped the world from China to Peru in their search of animal or vegetable creatures desirable for acquisition in this country, it would seem that those must be cunning gleaners who can hope to gather in a good harvest after such a host of reapers. That such a hope is justified, however, we cannot doubt. When the late M. Geoffroy St. Hilaire first introduced this matter to the French nation, he pointed out that there were numerous animals and vegetables the acclimatisation and cultivation of which was unachieved, and which were highly desirable. Scarcely ten years have elapsed since he first mooted that question, and how much has been done since! In France, thanks to the labours of the Société Impériale d'Acclimatation, the cultivation of the Chinese yam and of the sorgho already rendered important crops, and the *Alnus* silkworm has become a substantial addition to the resources for producing the raw material of textile fabrics. These are valuable achievements and they are now placed beyond the possibility of question or cavil, and we have the satisfaction of knowing that, thanks to the little society of Great Britain, they are all proceeding here. The French Society, too, have had other successes, of which they have just reason to be proud, less perhaps in extent, but far from contemptible. They have bred and reared the ostrich in the gardens of the Bois de Boulogne, that bird, before the existence of the society, not having been reproduced at a more northern point than Algeria. They have bred and reared the curlew, and several new and valuable kinds of birds from Australia and the Cape. Many kinds of deer, the mouflon, and other animals have been added to the live stock of the parks. Many vegetables and plants of high importance have also been acquired. In connection with the British Society similar successes have been obtained. Lord Powerscourt's deer and mouflons, the celebrated pheasants of Messrs. Maclean, Stone, Dering, and others; Lady Dorothy Nevill's *Alnus* silkworms; the bronze-winged pigeon, hatched at Mr. Bush's; the Guernsey experiments with the *Alnus* worm and Chinese yam, and the rapidly-increasing cultivation of the Brazilian arrowroot. All these matters sufficiently prove that the ground is in our means so closely gleaned but that the Acclimatisation Society may go on hopefully with its beneficent and humanising work, in the certainty of an abundant harvest. Three years ago, advocating the purposes of the then newly-born society, we declared that if, after ten years of existence, it succeeded in adding one animal and one vegetable to the stock of the country, it would be more than justified. It has exceeded that limit already.

Our space will not allow us to do more than briefly enumerate some of the most satisfactory points on the report which was read on Wednesday. The number of members has increased in the year from 185 to 355. The funds are in a satisfactory condition; for, although the expenses of the society have necessarily increased very considerably, and a comparatively heavy outlay has been made in erecting and working the fish-hatching apparatus, the balance at the bankers has not diminished. The fish-hatching is indeed among the most satisfactory of the operations which have been carried out during the past year, and this in spite of such an unfavourable season for piscicultural experiments as has probably not occurred for fifty years. All who are acquainted with such matters know very well that great and sudden changes in the temperature, and especially accessions of heat, are fatal to the ova and fry. Now this year we have it on record that, during several days in April, the thermometer ranged higher than it has done for many years past. This was precisely the period during which Mr. Francis experienced his worst losses. In addition to this, Mr. Francis states that during his temporary absence from home, he "has reason to believe that some malicious person entered the fish-house and allowed all the water to run out of the cisterns, whereby nearly the whole of the grayling fry, and a very large portion of the trout fry, were sacrificed." It is difficult so much as to conjecture what sort of malice could prompt any person to commit an act so atrociously mischievous as this; but no doubt Mr. Francis has good reasons for making this statement, or he would not have put it forward. However, it is satisfactory to know that, in spite of all these drawbacks, a total of 55,000 vitellogenic ova and fry have been distributed among the members at prices fixed as to be just remunerative to the society; whereas, according to the report of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, their larger apparatus, after three years practice in the art, has only produced a total of 40,000.

We can only for the present touch incidentally upon a few of the main points suggested by this report. Other opportunities will doubtless occur for returning in detail to some of the more important topics. We hope that the apparent failure with the Chinese sheep will not be taken as a conclusive evidence against that much-recommended animal. That they are exceedingly prolific, is established beyond a doubt, and it is clear also that the breed preserves its fecundity on being crossed with other kinds. The cause of failure in this case appears to have been disease—diarrhoea of a malignant character, evidently engendered by the inclemency of the winter and the exposure of the animals to its influence. This exposure the Chinese sheep ought never to have been required to endure. Coming from a warm climate, they should have been carefully housed, tended, and fed at least several generations, and so gradually have become accustomed to the climatic rigours of this land of fogs, until they regained that hardy quality which, in their native country, seems to be considered one of their principal characteristics. The Chinese sheep may be small, but they are excellent eaters when in good condition, and we see no reason whatever to rescind the opinion of them which we expressed from the beginning—that, as a cotager's sheep, they are highly to be recommended. The failure of the society's first experiment with the sheep is, therefore, not a deterrent to their council from besting it with better effect, and then, no doubt, the lessons of experience will not be thrown away. It should be remembered that when

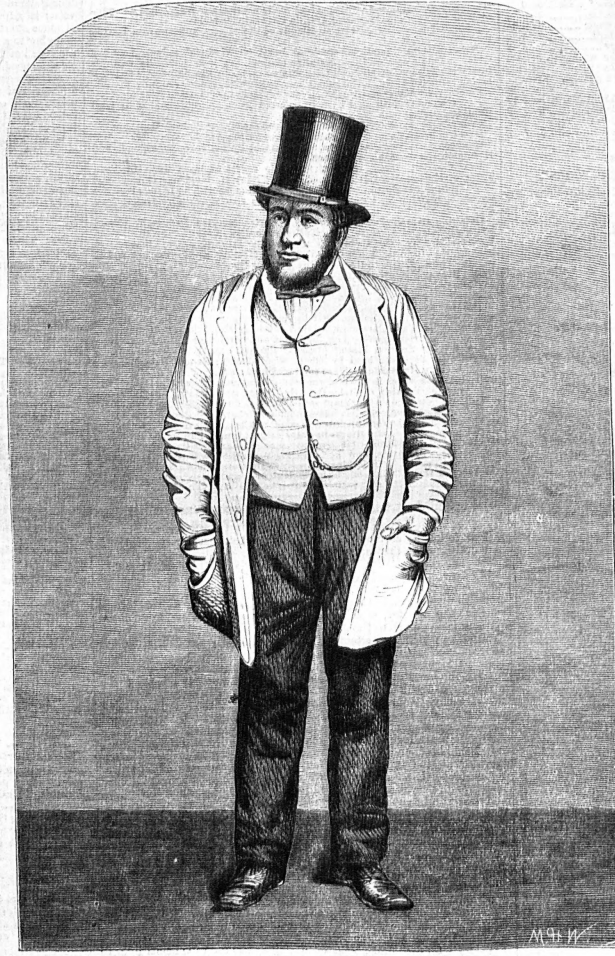
this sheep was bred in the gardens of the Zoological Society, where they were kept under cover, the complaint against them was that they bred too fast.

The suggestion to have medals as rewards and as a stimulus to captains of vessels, persons abroad, and those who undertake the conduct of experiments, is, we conceive, an excellent one. On this point we cannot, we think, do better than quote the words of the report, and also the passage with which that document is concluded:—

"The council wish to impress it upon the members that the main source of obstacle in the way of the operations and experiments of the society is the difficulty of enlisting the zeal of persons abroad who might render essential service to the society, and especially the officers of the vessels which bring over the objects for experiment, and they are of opinion that much of this might be cured if the council had it in their power to bestow rewards in the form of medals (gold, silver, or bronze) upon the persons who render aid to the society. Before, however, they can do this an appropriate die must be provided, designed and executed in a manner worthy of the society, and symbolical of the objects which it has in view. An important step has already been taken in this direction by Mr. Waterhouse Hawkins (one of the members of the council), who, in the ornamentation of the addresses to her Majesty and their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, has furnished a very beautiful design, which might be adopted for the medal."

It appears, however, that the council feel justified in expending out of the funds of the society. They, therefore, take this opportunity of introducing the subject to the members, with a view to ascertaining whether, by subscription among such of the members as may be willing to aid in a matter so important to the prosperity of the society, the sum necessary for providing the die can be raised.

"The council further desires to point out that as soon as the die is



HARRY ORME.

provided, it will be in the power of individual members to found medals in connection with the society to be offered as rewards for the success of experiments in which they take a personal interest.

In conclusion, the council, whilst congratulating the members upon the increasing prosperity of the society, desires still to impress upon them that much yet remains to be done before the society can occupy the position to which it aspires. It is highly satisfactory to know that, within the short space of one year, the number of members has doubled yet, when the small amount of the subscription is considered, it is obvious that until the number of annual subscribers is greatly increased it is impossible for the society to carry on its experiments in an independent manner, and upon a proper scale. Unlike foreign societies of the same character, which have the benefit of large pecuniary assistance from the Governments under which they exist, this society depends entirely upon the liberality of its members, and to its members, therefore, the council appeals, confident in the hope that what has been done will be accepted as the earnest of future and more important achievements, and that during the coming year zealous endeavours will be made so to increase the number of members as to place it within the power of the council to have an experimental farm or garden wherein the operations of the society may be conducted on a large scale.

Surely these views are neither too ambitious nor extravagant. At any rate, we hope that there is enough of zeal and public spirit among the well-wishers of this society to render it possible to carry them out.

FILLE DE L'AIR AND THE FRENCH PRESS.

CARTIAGE taught home to conquer her at last on her own element, and the French, having taken such a leaf out of our book in the use of racing, as to render their success for the future, on their own ground, at least highly probable, may be congratulated for their ability in adaptation. How many years is it since they knew nothing at all of racing—

since the amusement was purely British? how many years since their inauguration of it, as a practice, partook of the innocence and virgility of a primitive institution? and how many years is it since French gentlemen have become inoculated with a party spirit of intrigue and shiftness, which belongs to the very portion of our own turf? Nay, we may go yet further in our catechism, and ask (if the case of M. Lagrange and Fille de l'Air is to pass with impunity; or without the courtesy of some explanation) how many years will it be before continental racing shall be deformed with the very worst vices that breed and train a superior class of horse; we have invited them to bring their horses hither, at one of time by an allowance of weight; and we have done all in our power to fulfill the unexpressed obligations of international sport, which they would not ask them to come to this country in the expectation that a French proffer the litter to the street; we trusted to the innate sense of a French gentleman, as we should to one of our own countrymen, to eschew the doors of the post-house that lay open before him, and to follow the healthy guidance of the honourable sportsman, a character not yet totally extinct on Newmarket Heath.

We have waited behind our contemporaries to say a few words on the disgraceful scene presented to our notice after the race for the Oaks. We have waited for two reasons: we were, above all things, desirous that an explanation or an excuse of some kind should have the validity of that excuse against the apparent hostility of our people to a foreign victor; and we were anxious to test again the merits of the animal under question by his subsequent performance.

Had it been at all desirable that the whole business should have been done up (and it may be a question whether it is surrounded by circumstances or gains by an epoch), the question is so surrounded by circumstances as to make it daily more and more notorious. We say more notorious, because they may turn round upon us and accuse us of having taught them the practices the Frenchmen have followed in. But we cannot submit in silence to the childish notion that our insular dislike to foreign competition in horseracing produced that Epsom demonstration. Jealousy had nothing to do with it. We invited Frenchmen here to partake of our sports, and to win fairly and honestly our money. We remembered that that feeling, or sentiment, which exhibited itself upon the Oaks is universal, and that its exhibition is confined to the race. It was a petty display of spleen by the losing party. It was nothing of the sort. The sentiment which impelled that indecorous exhibition of hostility against the position of a shared by every man who has the credit of his position and a knowledge of his obligations may have kept him silent on the occasion.

Now these things have been foolishly advanced by the foreign press. Here and there justice has been done us; but the impression sought to be established against us is one detrimental to our hospitality, and which requires correction. We believe that we shall be listened to because we have, on all occasions, been slow to pass judgment on the owners of horses without very sufficient cause. We know the difficulties under which the public, labour, and the injustice which the public—the body which enjoys all the sport—frequently does them.

Let us ask a few questions—pertinent ones. Is the Fille de l'Air case the first which has come under the censure of the press? No! What shall be said of Stradford and Jaricot? and the in-and-out running of this very mare last year? We know, too, that fillies are very uncertain; but there is a limit to our credulity, for it is quite impossible that the parties who operated so vigorously against the mare for the Two Thousand, and who supported her so strongly for the Oaks, could have foreseen the ups and downs of animal condition with so much certainty in such a space of time. Animal magnetism indeed! When we are told that the mare which "was best as soon as the flag fell" at Newmarket, takes a sea voyage immediately, and is so improved by the salt-water as to win the French Oaks—returning to England straightway by the same invigorating process, and winning the same race in this country, we feel inclined to go abroad ourselves by the same boat. We regret exceedingly that the journey does not seem to act upon Blair Athol in the same way. That the mare is an extraordinary animal, is proved by her late performance at Ascot, so soon after her race at Paris and her voyage home. To have been so consistent, she ought to have finished very much further from the winner than she did last week. We say that, coming upon so many curious coincidences of French horses backed for money according to the public form, and then managing to lose, M. Lagrange owes an explanation to the world. Half the suspicion which now attaches to his name, would have ruined the reputation of any English nobleman, or would have forced from him an explanation by which he might stand or fall.

To us the excuses put forth, whenever they do come, will be utterly unimportant. They might as well be excuses of modesty, and be accepted as evidence some degree of modesty, and be accepted as a sort of guarantee that such things were not likely to happen again; as to clearing up the matter about the mare's running, "Crucial Judas!" It is a very bad case, and perhaps deserves the better part of valour. We presume that the best apology is the one which we have suggested, that the erratic performances are not the results of native talent, but have been adopted as being a *compromis*. If so, all we can say is that the owner of Fille de l'Air has been in exceedingly bad luck.

There are plenty of persons always anxious to prove too much. The gossip—which may be fact or not—about Edwards, the jockey, losing £200 on the Two Thousand does not touch the question of the Epsom demonstration. A crowd is never very discriminating, but has a rough sense of justice; it delights in administering. It did not mind the disgraceful exhibition of policemen and fighting around the mare, and the yells and execrations of the mob, but it intended to affect its reputation. But it must not be stopped in itself a dozen years, just as a jockey may lose £200 and be all the better for it the next day. It is a great pity that the cock-and-bull story of his losses shall be mixed up with the affair. The business of a jockey is to ride, and not to bet, certainly, and such an extent of his losses to some better employment for his money. "Monkeys" appear to us to be necessary of life which only very rich men can afford to throw away.

We trust we have heard the last of the unjustifiable remarks of the French press, and that no unfavourable impression in this country will be created by those that have already been made.

BLAIR ATHOL'S JOURNEY TO PARIS.

"ANGUS" gives in the *Morning Post* the following account of the Derby winner's adventures on his Paris journey:—
So much interest having been created by the success of Paris, and so much enthusiasm having been created by the success of Vermeil, it is only right that readers should learn the adventures of Blair Athol en route to the most civilised capital in Europe, by which it will be seen that a fine chance of the Derby winner had of preserving his laurels, and what little encouragement he had taken to English horses to cross the Channel. Blair Athol left Mickleham at six o'clock on Thursday morning, and arrived at Folkestone at four in the afternoon to cross by the cargo boat at

HACKNEY WICK

Bird and Weston, who made up the running at a hot pace, and Bird a dead heat, Martin close up. On getting together again, Bird just a winner by half a yard. Second heat: J. Mason 13, first; J. Glave, 12, J. Watts, 13, third: S. Saville, 94. Mason passed Watts in hot pace, Glave, whom he collared at 40 yds from home, and ran in a winner by

yard. | Just outside the gate we saw a young squirrel sitting on a fence.

AND PICKWORTH.—These
a side on the 25th of

Glave, whom he collared at 40 yds from home, and ran in a winner by

OUND.—SATURDAY
ended 10-day by

a dead heat. Martin close up. On getting together again, Bird just
winner by half a yard. Second heat: J. Mason, 13; first: J. Glave, 12;
J. Watts, 13; third: S. Saville, 9½. Mason passed Watts in hot pu
Glave, whom he collared at 40 yds from home, and ran in a winner by

ds, SATURDAY.—If anything
entred in pedestrian sports

Glave, whom he collared at 10 yds from home, and ran in a winner by

RUNNING GROUNDS.—The programme for home grounds was made up of a trio of

ROYAL OAK GROUNDS.—On arriving at these extensive and popular
last Saturday afternoon we were agreeably surprised to notice the sev-

Novice Handicap, distance 440 yds, for novices who in 1915 will take place at the same grounds, on Saturdays, 1

BOWLING-GREEN TEN GROUNDS.—William Hollowood and others have entered into arrangements to run one mile, at these grounds, for 4s

Groups.—There was a good sports announced being a sal

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BEADFORD.—Two novices, Wilkinson and Richards, run 180 yds, at the City Grounds, Quarry Gap, for 25 a side, on the 25th instant.
Hoxley.—H. Kay, of Nab Hill, and J. Kinder, of Pldney Brigg, are matched for six spore yds, for £20, at St. George's, on the 10th instant.

AQUATICS.

REGATTAS AND MATCHES TO COME
JUNE

Excelsior Boat Club—Sculls (gigs), Greenwich to Trinity Wharf
Walton-on-Thames Regatta
St Clement Dances

Cork Harbour Rowing Club—Regatta
Derby Regatta
Royal St. George's Yacht Club—Regatta in Dublin Bay
Norfolk and Norwich Regatta

WEST LONDON ROWING CLUB.
The pair-oared gig race of this club took place on Sat-
e course was the

... was from Putney to Hammersmith. A steamer was spe-

the weather, a very crowded company was on board. We
 the issues, all stations, of course, dating from the Surrey side.

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | F. Rayment and C. Collins, H. Bright (cox.)..... | 1 |
| 2. | G. Kerridge and J. H. Lee, S. Frost (cox.)..... | 2 |
| 4. | E. Bright and W. | 3 |

took the lead, closely followed by Collins, and both boats drew ahead the premiership, and Bond and Bright were rowing level. As he passed Bright, then Collins in lead towards the Point, where the boat of Collins by half a boat's length of Craven Cottage. It was any way, still more forward, in favour of Bond. At the Soap House he was well in, and Bright all astern.

HEBBLEY-ON-THE-SEA REGATTA
The following are the entries for this grand regatta, which is fix
for the 23rd and 24th of June:—

LADIES' PLATE.—Oxford, Cambridge, Eton, and Radley.

STEWARDS, &c.—Oxford, London, and Kingston.
SILVER GOBELS.—Messrs. Kinglake and Selwyn, and Messrs. Brickwood and Brother.
SOUFFLÉ.—Messrs. Woodgate and Michell, Oxford.
VISITORS.—Oxford and Kingston.

The sailing match on Tuesday, under the auspices of the Royal London Yacht Club, derived additional interest from conditions of

passed by the weather. A brisk head wind nearly the whole distance from Erilth to the Nore tested the sailing capabilities of the vessels to the utmost extent; and as they were all second or third-class yachts, that is to say, much less of tonnage varying from eight to twenty tons, the most of their decks were pretty well broken when they turned back. So that the race was run in a series of tacks, the boats had turned as well as the wind, and the boats were not allowed to start in the morning coming in. For the yachts of second-class register the race was run from Erilth to a spot rather short of the Nore Light, and for the third-class boats it was from the same starting point to a boat moored off the Chapman Head. The following yachts contested:—

Dione	12	T. Field, Esq.
Folly	12	W. L. Parry, Esq.
Happiness	20	W. L. Parry, Esq.

Vampire.....	26	.....	Capt. Commereil.
Dadu.....	15	.....	Capt. E. Baldock and W. N. Rudge, Esq.
Alexandra.....	15	.....	G. Harrison, Esq.
THIRD CLASS.			
Yacht.....	Tons.	.....	Owner.
Algerine.....	10	.....	F. Rosoman, Esq.
Vision.....	8	.....	G. Harrison, Esq.
Colleen Bawn.....	10	.....

The prizes were £10 for the second prize; £8 for the first prize, £5 and £10 and for the third class, 20 guineas and £5; the first prize in either class being in place, and the second prize in money. Time was allowed for starting at 12 noon, and the boats started at 12.15 minutes for every ton, thus making the second class boats, and one minute less for every ton, thus a yacht of 20 tons there being only one so large in the match. The boats sailed off at 12.15 minutes and a half to their competitors of 1 or 2 tons, and a yacht of 10 tons, which gave two minutes to the smaller craft of eight tons. The club's steamer, "The Commodore," accompanied the yachts in their race, having first taken on board of the club, Mr. Arden, and gentlemen at Blackwall. The commodore and the frequent dipping of his flag was recognised and returned by the crews of the Royal Navy, which were passed in the course of the trip. The Commodore also carried on board of her deck several of the Volunteer Yachtsmen, who, on all these occasions, are invited.

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	H. M. S.
Vampire.....	2 31 55
Alexandra.....	2 33 7

Octoroon	2 35 17
Folly	2 36 33
Dione	2 43 24

So closely did the third yacht, the Duden, round the stationary vessel that she almost fouled her; and even as it was, the daring little craft carried away her topsail lift, thus in some slight measure impairing herself for the remainder of the race. The Algerine, Collin and Vision having rounded the boat at the Chapman Head, were making the best of their way to Edith; and as soon as all the three yachts had rounded the Queen of the Shames, that steam-stead, well, as the gulls have passengers a tolerably good view of the whole scene. When they came abreast of the leading craft, and whilst yet in the interesting time of the match in reaching below the contrary head cleared for action, and forthwith commenced a series of darts to the music of the band.

The Vampire, at the time of rounding the Queen of the Th was but a minute and a quarter in advance of the Alexandria; so making the stipulated allowance of time for tonnage, the race between these two yachts had been, so far, virtually a tie. It remained for Vampire to increase that lead, and it will be seen that she did so, nine vessels passing the winning post or flag buoy at Erith in the following order:

	II.	%	S.
Alarm.....	5	18	0
Collection Dawn.....	5	25	15
Vision.....	5	30	25
Vampire.....	5	35	30
Daddy.....	5	43	27
Alexander.....	5	45	26
October.....	5	45	41
Folly.....	6	45	41
Diana.....	6	45	45

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CUTTER RACE.—At a committee meeting held on Friday, June 1, at the club-house, Freemasons' Tavern, the second match of the season was discussed.

was fixed to take place on Thursday, June 30, for yachts not exceeding 15 tons. One minute allowed per ton for difference of tonnage. The prize given by the club to be of the value of £25. The course from Erith to the Chapman and back to Erith. The entries closed on Monday, June 27, at the club-house, at Millwall.

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ROBERT COOPER AND JAMES PERRY.—A subscription has been opened to commemorate the numerous important conquests achieved by Robert Cooper, Esq. of Rednagh, Gatehead, also suitably recognize the clever qualities of James Perry, his scarcely less celebrated trainer, for the services rendered by them in many occasions in connection with Cooper. We understand it that Mr. Cooper presented the latter with a beautiful and massive gold choker and appendages, and Perry with a silver watch and gold chain, both of which will be of exquisite value and interest according to circumstances. We believe a sum of £50 was offered, which he will astonish our readers to state that nearly 40 persons have contributed to the same day the lists were issued. Such universal recognition of his services is by all means one of the best possible steps towards reconciling parties who have been so unational disagreements, and we wish the movement no other than that it may progress uninterrupted, and terminate agreeably.

minuscule applications from yacht-owners, however. In completion of the regatta, the regatta committee will be holding a social on Thursday, July 7, the first day of the regatta, will be open to yachts 40 tons and upwards, instead of 30 tons and upwards, as advertised, and the second prize of £50 will be open to all yachts under 40 tons. Instead of under 30 tons, as mentioned in the same notification.

On Friday, July 8, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, the first day of the regatta on Wednesday, June 29, will be open to the world, for yachts of 12 tons and upwards; entries to close at the club-house on Wednesday, June 29, 10 p.m.; course from North Woolwich to Gravesend and back to Erith. Yachts to be measured on the day previous and the morning of the race, at North Woolwich. A prize of the value of 30gs, being the gift of Mr. E. Mappin, will be given to the yacht which will finish first, and a prize of 15gs, being the gift of Mr. W. Donald, to the second yacht.

Half a minute per half ton for difference of tonnage.

The regatta will be sailed from the Swan, London, leaving at 10.45 a.m., to embark members and visitors direct from the Swan, leaving at 11.15 a.m. The anniversary dinner will take place at the Swan, on Thursday, June 28, at the club-house, tickets may be had from any of the following gentlemen:—The officers of the club, and Messrs. Bennett, Boyd, Britton, Charwood, Clark, Gifford, and Gifford.

August 9, by seven young men belonging to the parishes of St. John St. Margaret, and St. George, Hanover-square.

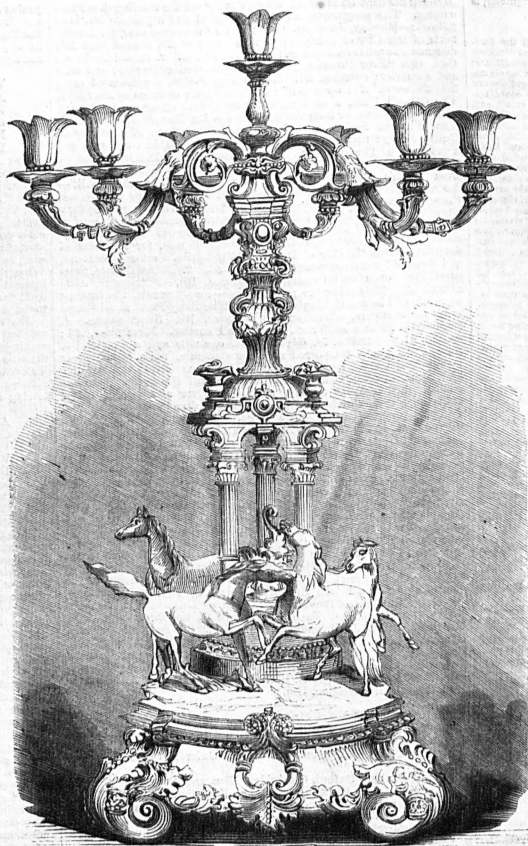
and money prizes, four hents. The first heat for a Coat and Badge was run on Westminster-bridge, up round Battersea Railway-bridge, down round Lambeth-bridge, and finish off Mr. Bell's Ship Tavern, mill bank.—First heat: H. Barton (red), C. Barker (green), E. Clifton (blue), J. Snell (white).—Second heat: H. Shields (yellow), J. Doubles (pink), E. Smith (stripes), Mr. W. Martin, manager.

OUR LETTER BOX.

We shall at all times be pleased to give insertion to any correspondence on interesting subjects; but we cannot be responsible for the sentiments of the various writers.

THE CHAMPIONSHIP CONTROVERSY.

To the Editor of "The Illustrated Sporting News." DEAR SIR,—In the *News* of Saturday I find a letter from "A Hard Working Man," in reference to my humble advocacy of Mace's claims to the belt, written by him in such entire misconception or unintentional misrepresentation of what I have said on the matter, as to require a word or two from me. Nowhere have I ever urged, as he alleges, that Mace is "entitled to the belt as a gift," for in the first place such is not only a contradiction in terms—a man taking by right what he is "entitled" to, and a "gift" being something bestowed—but secondly I hope I am not quite so far gone as to imagine that Mace is legally "entitled" at all. That he, however, has undeniable claims upon the Pugilistic Committee, I think any candid and intelligent man will not deny. These claims having already been acknowledged by the committee, and the premises admitted, I but attempted in my poor way to represent that those claims were so far open to consideration on the part of the committee as, under Mace's circumstances of peculiar and unparalleled hardship, to have his title to the ultimate possession of the belt take effect from the period of his last fight with King. In fact the whole drift of my arguments amounted to this, that the rule so often alluded to, and directly bearing on Mace's case, is not only impolitic, but also outrageously and ridiculously unjust, and this too without the slightest reference to Mace's position at all, for there is obviously no limitation as to age and the absence of challenges; and consequently the "old," and in nine cases out of ten the most deserving, is deplorably placed on a footing of gross inequality with the more youthful, in being expected by this senseless rule to do what nature has beforehand determined he shall not. The war between nature and the Pugilistic Committee cannot by any means be justified, and I am sure it requires no extraordinary prescience to determine who will prove the conqueror, so that for my part I cannot approve the old Tory argument of persisting in a course that is plainly wrong solely because our fathers pursued it before us; but I would rather say to the committee, altered and imperative circumstances demand the revision of this rule, and while you make the laws which regulate the Ring, don't forget at the same time, if you please, that there is such a thing in the world as equity, for all laws that do not recognise and secure the latter are doomed to extinction sooner or later! But our friend, Sir, instances the case of Sayers again, and I again say that there is not the slightest analogy between his claims and those of Mace, which I have repeatedly shown. To go into the title of Sayers, indeed, as almost anybody must see, can only be done *primarily*, and this is but sheer nonsense, after his having left the Ring upwards of four years ago, and accepted in lieu of the present a *fas-cinile* belt, and something infinitely more solid to boot. With respect to the cited engagements of Mace with Madden and Brettie, I would beg to remind our friend, once for all, that they had nothing on earth to do with the championship; and surely he must have discovered, if he knows anything at all about the matter, that Mace quietly and with all the ease imaginable disposed of Travers, who whipped the evergreen Mike, and subsequently the renowned Brettie also. Your correspondent next says, Sir, that Mace "could not keep the belt when he had it." I am heartily sick of this pulling trash. It has been a thousand times shown by the very best and unquestionable authorities that fate decided against Mace, not inability; and without entering into any invidious distinctions as to relative capability, the world knows that the inflexible refusal of King again to fight him, alone prevented the solution of this problem. Our friend lastly says, Sir, that he hopes I won't lose my temper with him for differing in opinion from me, as I have done with former opponents. I beg to assure him, whether he will believe it or not, that I never quarrelled with a man in all my life for differing in mere opinion from me, and that so far from having been betrayed into the weakness imputed, never



THE ASCOT CUP.

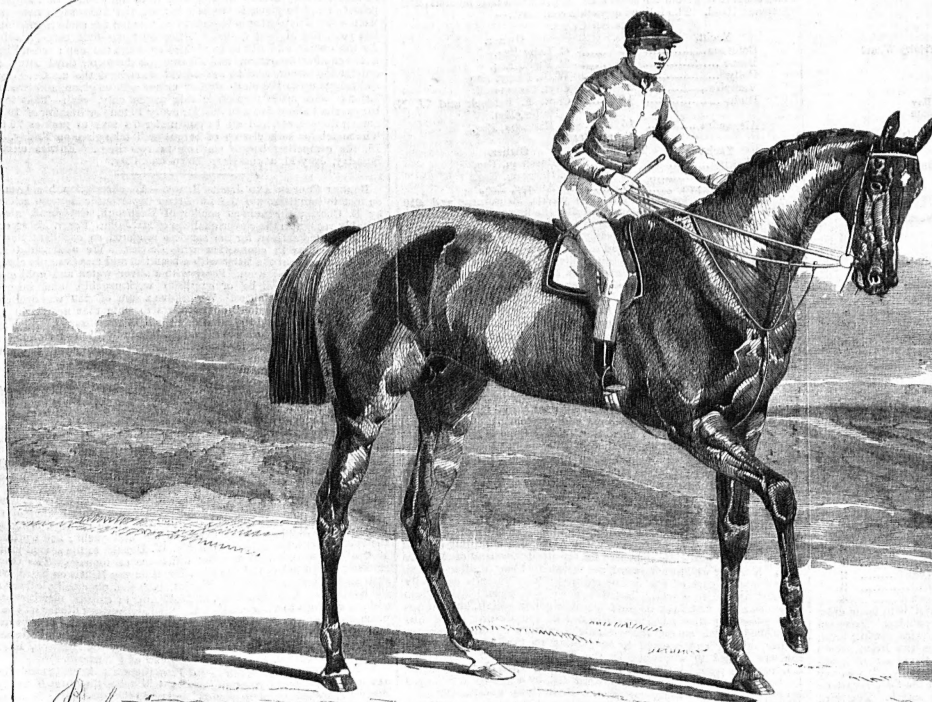
(Manufactured by Garrard and Co., Haymarket.)

yet have I undertaken a task with greater coolness and entire mastery over every feeling than in my comparatively mild replies to the mountain mass of vilest scoundrelism and unmeasured rascality with which I have been assailed in your columns. And pray what was "the head and front of my offending?" I wrote you a letter, Sir, in modest enunciation of an intelligent opinion that a leading and skilful cham-

pion pugilat had certain claims, though not hereditary ones, nor yet in consonance with a very bad law. This, I apprehend, I had a perfect right to do, and you equally the right to publish or reject. My letter, moreover, was studiously inoffensive. You were good enough to publish the communication, and no sooner did it appear than from various parts of England, Ireland, and Scotland, letters immediately teemed into your office, all of them personally directed against myself, which, for filthiest blackguardism and devilish malignity, have never been paralleled in the history of the art of printing, the innocent cause of all simply being that I was understood daringly to imply that Mace was a superior man to Heenan, the fallen "god" of the fanatical and idolatrous crew. Well, Sir, I must confess I am no *Maecorena*, and I cannot say with him that "I like to be despised." I perceived at once there was nothing for it but "fight," even against fearful odds, and as I saw equally at a glance that the blind votaries I had to the complete with were only perverted to their own, I entered unreserved use of weapons similar to a hogging by the *melee* heartily, and I have yet to learn that I stand indebted to any one of the yelping bipeds. Writing strongly does not, any more than speaking energetically, necessarily suggest loss of temper, particularly where a man whatever else his errors, is above at least the base dishonesty of cravenly descending to *equivoque* or euphemism; and I can sincerely assure "A Hard Working Man," that instead of being angry with him for his intelligent and gentlemanly letter, the nice feeling and natural good breeding displayed in which many a man in a more fortunate position of life might well study and largely profit by imitating, I honour him all the more supremely for having pointed it, however much I differ from his conclusions; but I cannot at the same time resist adding that, after a quiet and deliberate review of the entire controversy, and calmly considering what and with whom I have had to deal, I wrote not one word I have, or could have, the slightest desire to qualify or retract.—I remain, dear Sir, yours truly, R. D. H.

To the Editor of "The Illustrated Sporting News."

DEAR SIR,—Observing occasionally some very severe animadversions upon Heenan emanating from some of your correspondents, I am induced (with your permission) to make a few remarks about them. In the first place, they all join in accusing Heenan of very many faults and errors, which that gentleman would be astonished to hear of, they threaten him with Tom King's patent knuckle powder, they accuse him of running home to America from fear of that nimble gentleman, Mr. Hurst, and several other such crimes, that I cannot call to memory at present. Now, Sir, is it hospitable or honourable, is it English-like of those persons to traduce and defame Heenan? He is a foreigner, and ought to be more hospitably received while he is in England's guest. He has shown himself with manliness in all his encounters, and if he has not succeeded in defeating his little sturdy Tom Sayers, or his late longer antagonist, Tom King, why should he be blamed for it? The man did his best to win, and if the "roast beef of Old England" and famed gladiators, kept him at bay, and in one instance (and almost in both instances) triumphed over him, why should a lot of small, insignificant dunghill cocks crow over his defeat, when, perhaps, they are some of the very identical persons who fawned upon him and praised him sky high before he defeated. And if some of his friends on both sides the Atlantic have accused his trainer of poisoning him and lots of other stuff, why should the fallen hero be obliged to bear their shortcomings on his own shoulders? If his calumniators wish to pitch into anybody, why not challenge those persons who distribute the lies about his poisoning, instead of shielding himself by any such excuse as having been drugged. He knows he has been beaten, and he has taken it like a man. And now there's the hugging business; he is blamed for having hugged King. Why should not King be blamed for striking Heenan when he came to meet him in the last two or three rounds? Heenan's legs were shaking beneath him as he got from his second's knee, and yet King is lauded because he struck down a comparatively helpless man. I don't mean, at all, to find fault with King, he came there to try to win.



SCOTTISH CHIEF, WINNER OF THE GOLD CUP AT ASCOT.

(Drawn by BEN HARRISON, Esq.)

and he did right by trying all he knew to succeed. But why should Heenan be blamed for rushing at a strong, determined man, in his full vigour in the first rounds, and when King was perfectly able to take care of himself, when it was quite agreeable with the Rules of the Ring? I don't say that his doing so was a stand-up fight, but he should not be blamed for any default in the rules. He did his best to win, and as it was quite fair, according to the rules, to squeeze and toss about his man, why should he not do it? Do you think if King could have done so with Heenan that he would not have done so? But, suppose he (King) had done so, there would have been no talk then about it being unfair whatever. "Oh, no." If John Bull had tossed and humbled Brother Jonathan, he would have been *encored* and cheered to his heart's content; but as it happened *vice versa*, the open mouthed pack all fly at the stranger who has shown his pluck by coming so many miles from home to a hostile (if you allow me the expression) country to fight, and carry home with him as a trophy the Belt of England's Champion (all honour to him, say I, for displaying such stamina), and who, not having succeeded, a lot of paltry fellows, who would not dare say a word against Heenan in his presence, open cry at him. "His him again, he has got no friends," could be applied to this case, I think. Accept my apologies for troubling you thus far, and in conclusion I beg to say that I am of R. D. H.'s opinion concerning the Belt. Mace has challenged the whole world to fight for the championship, and has met with no response; therefore, I think, as a matter of courtesy to him, that (as he is leaving Old England shortly) he be presented with the Belt and elected Champion; and upon his leaving the country, if he does not intend to stay and defend his laurels, I am sure Mace could resign them, and give the Belt out to be fought for and gained by some one else. I think before he goes. As for Heenan's countryman, Coburn, I don't think he stands any chance with Mace. Again apologising for troubling you on the matter, I beg to subscribe myself,

Your's sincerely,

Holywell, June 7, 1864.

T.R.O.

To the Editor of "The Illustrated Sporting News."

Sir,—I must apologise for addressing you on a subject which so many of your readers think it high time should be dropped. Nevertheless, I cannot allow the low ribaldry, the coarse cant, and the filthy language of this unfortunate bigot, "R. D. H.," to pass unanswered. He has been "poetically" described as a "bull amid butterflies," but I should say more sensibly and appropriately described as surrounded by "matadores," who, having aroused his all-truthful passions by the brilliant flashes of their undeniable truths, leave him maddened with revenge to charge the gladiator who has just given him the first painful gash. He has made that villainous dash. And intellect proves its superiority over the low brute; who, instead of picking up his intended victim, scatters his filth, commingling with his reason foam, on those within his reach for the amusement of the surrounding multitude. I have permitted him to make another attack that they may witness how deranged, powerless, blinded with rage, he falls an easy victim to the well-directed weapon of his masterly antagonist, who will endeavour to avoid giving extra pain by performing the operation with an envenomed instrument, and I beseech you not to misapprehend my design. I speak not as a malevolent satirist. This foul-mouthed coward, unable to attack myself, should attack the inoffensive priest—the harmless peasant—by endeavouring to libel one and belie the other. But "words are but wind," yet I may add acts are facts, a few of which I shall supply this defeated animal with. Before doing so I may inform him that, for the study of religion was small; at the same time, I have observed, and I have thought, and I have formed my own conclusion on the subject, unlike those unfortunate bigots mire their parents or parties may have led them. I know not what religion I may yet adopt, but I know those who have thought un-
happily on the subject—those, rich, learned, and gifted, have invariably chosen the Catholic as the best; but, at the same time, I



THE QUEEN'S GOLD CUP.

(Manufactured by GARRARD and Co., Haymarket.)

know there are members, like "R. D. H.," poor, intolerant bigots in any religion for what they may gain. From his language I presume he must have originally been "a come in, jump in, run in, be in time, and see the fun," to some show whose voice must have failed him on the last unlucky night of some fair, and finding the church porch more

comfortable than the show balcony, a long-tailed black more comfortably than badly-fitting tights, a clean face and religiously-trimmed whiskers more becoming than chalk and vermilion, a shave with an old penknife, and abusing Catholics with a bad pen dipped in gall more profitable than wasting his breath in calling out what would never occur—in fact, shouting (with hand to mouth) black falsehoods, filthy lies (which habits I am afraid he has acquired too well to ever hope to give over), he brought with him as a help to his newly-adopted home, the tract society and soup kitchen. It is in his late professional career no doubt he learned the vulgar low doggerel he so often scurries in. Now, in referring to the facts I before alluded to, let me inform this poor mad thing how cautious people should be in throwing stones when glass houses are standing over them, and these are not groundless assertions made use of to annoy, but real bona fide facts extracted from the public newspapers. The first is that of the Rev. Lewellyn Powell, a clergyman of the Church of England, and who was curate of Childwall, under the Rev. Augustus Campbell, rector of Liverpool, who is also vicar of Childwall, placed before the magistrates on the charge of obtaining two sovereigns from Mr. Barrett, proprietor of the London Hotel, under false pretences, and also with having stolen two silver spoons from the hotel, which he afterwards offered in pawn. The prisoner was 30 years of age and committed for trial—there was a further charge against him of having stolen a gold watch and chain from the Lamb Hotel, Wavertree. When such charges can be brought against the clergy of a church, in what a blessed state the congregation must be! The next is Charles Davis, a married man, with a family, summoned before the magistrates of Dover by Catherine Ann Thompson, to show cause why he should not contribute to the support of her female child, his putative offspring. The rev. gentleman did not appear, and it subsequently transpired he had left England. I am not yet done with the clerical delinquents of this renegade and despicable heretic. The next is the case of John Roberts, a clergyman, charged before the magistrates of Exeter with being drunk and incapable of taking care of himself in the public streets. It was stated by the constable that at about one o'clock in the morning he found the rev. defendant lying on his face in Castle-street, bleeding profusely from the nose. The Bench inflicted a fine of five shillings and costs. When men, calling themselves ministers of the Gospel, indulge in such horrible, mean, carnal, sensual crimes as robbery, fornication, and drunkenness, I think this priest-hunter would have shown more good sense in passing by unnoticed words made use of in this way by one he himself could not deny was a "gentleman;" the words were "Beg, borrow, or steal." If you can make anything of them, do, and I wish you joy in your employment. As a nation the Irish never could be accused of possessing a propensity for "borrowing" or "stealing," even in their most abject poverty; and, I must say, are most unlike our neighbours across the Channel in that respect, who both borrow and steal the talent and substance of our country, without the decency to acknowledge it; and as to "begging," it is their misfortune, not their fault, and only shows the wanton cowardice of this low English Orangeman in trying to heap insult upon injury. Crimes far worse than begging are committed by all classes in England, from the highest to the lowest; the fact is too plainly told by every newspaper that is published. Even those who preach and practise the Gospel are not exempt. Vice is defiled, ruffianism is tolerated, scandal is given everywhere; the heart of the English nation is festering away with the rottenness and corruption of infidelity and bigory, and under these distressing circumstances whom have those unfortunate people to look to. A clergy whose most striking points of character are imbecility, impurity, and immorality, as I have already shown. If a list of the clerical scandals and the awful and unnatural crimes, such as are recorded in the English journals, were furnished to your readers, it would present a picture too horrible to behold, too loathsome to contemplate, and such as has never been exhibited in any country but England. But what can we expect from a country where a wicked habit is called a human infirmity, ensnaring diversions pass for innocent amusements, and bigotry



HIPPOLYTA, WINNER OF THE ASCOT STAKES.

(Drawn by BEN HERRING, Esq.)

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son, Merton House, Salisbury-square,
the parish of St. Bride, in the City of London, where
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